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# What is a Good Beef Bull Worth?

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# WHAT IS A GOOD BEEF BULL WORTH?

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The two Angus bulls pictured below each graded choice plus in a performance bull testing station. The shorter legged, more compact bull (left) was eight days older than the larger bull (right), both being just past the yearling age. The large bull weighed 919 pounds and the smaller one 707 pounds or 212 pounds more weight in the younger bull.

Figured on a weight per day of age basis, the larger, younger bull gained 2.48 pounds while the smaller, older bull gained 1.87, or about 0.6 pound per day less. Geneticists tell us that about one-fourth of this gainability difference can be expected in the offspring of these two bulls when mated to cows of equal genetic merit.

Applying this to practical conditions, assuming 40 calves per year for 3 years, we get the following dollar difference between the two bulls:

0.15 lbs. per day (gainability diff.) X 500 days = 75 lbs.

75 lbs. X 40 calves = 3000 lbs.

3000 lbs. X 3 years = 9000 lbs.

9000 lbs. X 20¢ = $1800

The real difference between the two bulls is now $1800 more calf production from the larger bull. The close relationship between feed efficiency and rate of gain would add another $300 - $600 to his value in feed saved.

## Raising Quality From Good To Choice

How much more can one afford to pay for a bull that sires choice grade calves over one that sires good grade calves? Let's assume the same practical conditions.

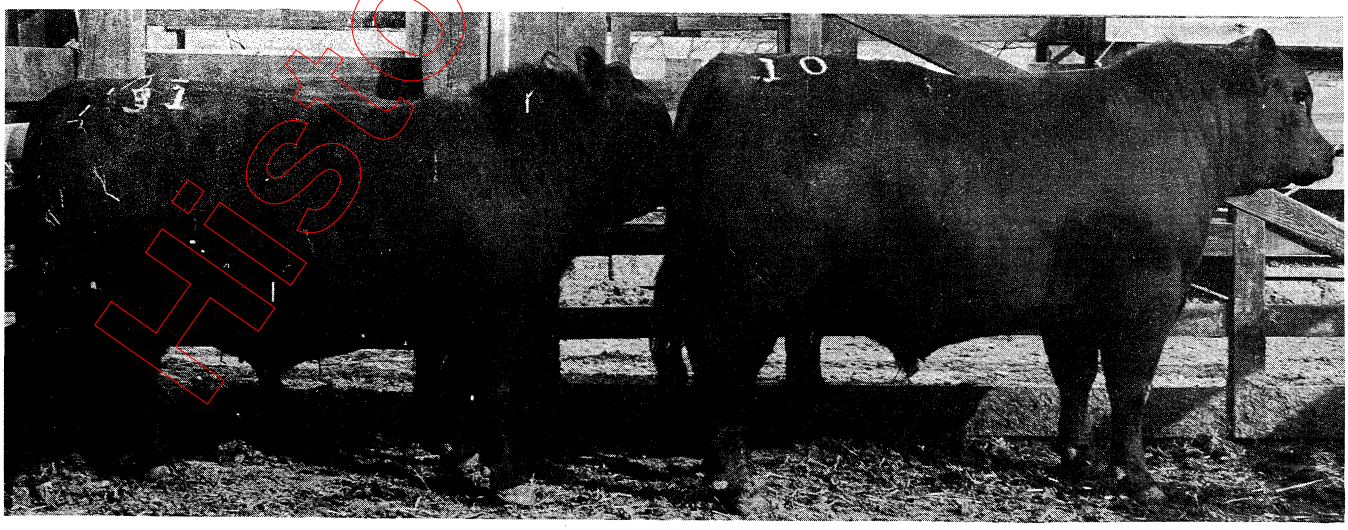
3¢ quality premium X 500 lbs. (weaning wt.) calf = $15

$15 X 40 calves = $600

$600 X 3 years = $1800

One could buy the poorer bull for around $400 but how many bull buyers would pay $2200 for the better bull? Both bulls at their respective prices would bring about the same return on investment. Too many buyers expect to purchase the better bull for around $600 to $700.

PERFORMANCE + QUALITY = $$$$$





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